

# STARS AND STRIPES

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

## Stop move targets 7,000 GIs in Europe

BY STEVE LIEWER

*Stars and Stripes*

As thousands of U.S. Army Europe troops pack up for Middle East assignments, thousands more soldiers and officers left behind are being ordered to stay where they are — at least for a while.

Last week, the Army issued a “stop-movement” order affecting certain soldiers scheduled to transfer to schools or new duty stations between March 1 and Sept. 30. The order also affects officers and warrant officers scheduled to either transfer or attend schools between March 1 and May 31.

Capt. John Pilgrim of USAREUR’s officer assignments division said the new policy affects only those units that haven’t received orders to the Middle

East in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The V Corps and 1st Infantry Division units currently deploying are restricted by their deployment orders, he said.

USAREUR spokeswoman Ali Betten-court said the stop-movement order affects about 7,000 USAREUR soldiers, not counting those attached to separate commands such as the Stuttgart-based European Command or the European Regional Medical Command.

Pilgrim said the order affects about 300 USAREUR officers, most of whom are captains scheduled to attend schools this spring. They could be kept at their posts in Europe for up to 180 days. But the May 31 end date means the order does not affect hundreds of other officers scheduled to leave during the busy summer PCS season.

According to a statement from USAREUR, exceptions will be granted only on a case-by-case basis through individual units’ personnel officers and subject to approval from the chain of command. The order doesn’t affect soldiers or officers scheduled to rotate before March 1.

The stop-movement order is different from stop-loss orders, which currently affect many troops in other service branches but only a few hundred U.S. Army troops in a handful of specialized jobs. A stop-loss order prevents a soldier from leaving the military, Pilgrim said, while a stop-movement order prevents him or her from moving to a new post.

He said the order has been imposed to make sure European units are as close to full strength as possible in case they are needed to support U.S. military operations in Southwest Asia or elsewhere.

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## Thousands gather to mourn Columbia crew

BY SCOTT LINDLAW

*The Associated Press*

SPACE CENTER, Houston — Led by President Bush, thousands of grieving space workers and their families, friends, neighbors and political leaders paid a solemn farewell Tuesday to the seven Columbia astronauts. “Their mission was almost complete, and we lost them so close to home,” Bush said.

Bush bowed his head in mourning and first lady Laura Bush wiped tears as the men and women who perished in the space shuttle disaster were memorialized at the home of Mission Control. The shuttle broke up Saturday as it was returning to Earth.

“Each of these astronauts had the daring and the discipline required of their call-

ing. Each of them knew great endeavors are inseparable with great risk, and each of them accepted those risks willingly, even joyfully, in the cause of discovery,” Bush said.

“America’s space program will go on,” Bush declared in the outdoor ceremony, held beneath a clear blue sky and a few wisps of white clouds.

Thousands of people bunched together on a mass of green lawn stretching more than 200 yards from the white, square-shaped building that houses Mission Control to a series of engineering buildings and the headquarters here.

“All mankind is in their debt,” Bush said of the fallen astronauts as members of his audience sniffed and wiped tears from their eyes.

The memorial service, held



RICK BOWMER/AP

**An American flag blows near an unofficial memorial at the Johnson Space Center in Houston. President Bush led a memorial service there Tuesday for the seven astronauts killed when space shuttle Columbia broke up on re-entry Saturday.**

at NASA’s Johnson Space Center, opened with an invocation by a Navy rabbi and the singing of the hymn, “God of Our Fathers.”

Sean O’Keefe, NASA’s administrator, said the bond be-

tween those who go into space and those on the ground “is incredibly strong. Today, our grief is overwhelming.”

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# Memorial: 'All mankind is in their debt' says Bush

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"We also have a tremendous duty to honor the legacy of these fallen heroes by finding out what caused the loss of the Columbia and its crew, to correct the problems we find and to make sure that this never happens again," O'Keefe said.

The president and first lady Laura Bush were accompanied on Air Force One by Neil Armstrong, the first astronaut to walk on the moon. Former senator and astronaut John Glenn and his wife, Annie, also were on board along with O'Keefe and a delegation of congressional figures.

"It's too bad we couldn't have pushed this day back forever," lamented Glenn, the first U.S. astronaut to orbit the Earth.

NASA estimated the crowd gathering in a plaza known as the Mall at between 10,000 and 15,000. Mourners spilled beyond the square and crowded around a pond. They stood among the trees and on the lawns — waiting to hear the presidential eulogy.

"He's the leader of our country, and his being here wasn't necessary, but it does show we are mourning," said Rochelle Pritchard, a NASA contract worker who helps manufacture robotic flight control gear.

The memorial service had a personal dimension for Pritchard, who said she attended Texas Tech with shuttle Cmdr. Rick Husband, who was among those who perished Saturday.

"He was just the greatest guy — always smiling, always approachable," she said.

Laura Lucier, an employee of the Canadian space agency who is based at Johnson Space Center, said that passion for space exploration drew workers here and gave the memorial service deeper meaning.

"There's nobody who works at NASA who isn't passionate about it," Lucier said. "When workers are lost, it means a lot more."

You work here because you love it, not because it's a paycheck."

The impact of the Columbia's loss was felt well outside the space center's gates. Flags flew at half-staff throughout the region. The sign at a fast-food restaurant just outside Johnson's gates read "Our prayers to our NASA family."

The White House drew inspiration from President Reagan, who delivered one of the most eloquent speeches of his presidency after the explosion of the space shuttle Challenger.

"Sometimes, when we reach for the stars, we fall short," Reagan said on Jan. 31, 1986, to a crowd of 10,000 at Johnson, home of Mission Control, the nerve center of space shuttle flights.

"But we must pick ourselves up again and press on despite the pain."

## Correction

A story in Monday's edition of Stripes Lite about the shooting of a 1st Infantry Division soldier gave the incorrect rank for U.S. Army Europe spokesman Col. Carl Kropf.

## News tracker: What's new with old news

### Nation

**Regan spy trial:** Brian Patrick Regan used computers in the local public library to find the addresses of Iraqi and Libyan embassies overseas, three FBI employees testified in Regan's federal espionage trial.

The FBI employees following Regan in June 2001 saw him at a computer in the Crofton, Md., public library, looking for, and then printing out, information about Iraqi and Libyan embassies in Europe. One surveillance team member, Jason Williams, said he saw Regan type in search terms for Iraqi embassies in Switzerland, Germany and France. He took some notes on what he had found, and printed out some pages, Williams said.

**Mail truck hijacking:** Two men who allegedly seized a mail truck last week hoped to coerce the postal carrier into helping them rob a home, authorities said Monday.

The plan fell apart after a police officer happened upon the men as they tried to overpower the carrier, and a low-speed chase through the city's streets ensued, authorities said.

Nevia Abraham and Jonathan Hamilton each face federal charges of kidnapping, assault and using a gun to commit a violent crime. The kidnapping charge carries a possible sentence of life in prison.

### War on terrorism

**Soldier identified:** The Pentagon on Tuesday identified the U.S. Army National Guard soldier who was killed in a road accident in Qatar last Saturday as Sgt. Michael C. Barry, 29, of Overland Park, Kan.

Barry died as a result of injuries sustained as a passenger in a vehicle that was struck by another vehicle in Doha, the capital of Qatar. The accident is under investigation.

Barry was assigned to the 205th Medical Battalion of the Missouri Army National Guard at Kansas City, Mo.

Three others in the accident were admitted to military medical facilities at al-Udeid air base in Qatar. Their names were not released.

**Homeland security budget:** Vaccines, security at borders and ports and efforts to make the nation's power, transportation and communications infrastructure less vulnerable are part of President Bush's proposed \$41.3 billion to safeguard domestic security throughout the federal government.

Tom Ridge's Homeland Security Department, which came into being on Jan. 27, would receive most of the money, for functions ranging from guarding airports to guarding President Bush. The budget, announced Monday, would pay for the department's first full year of operations.

Two large increases would go to the department's research and analysis branches, where officials will study vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure.

**Afghan caves:** A week after U.S. forces battled a group of armed men on a mountainside in southern Afghanistan, enemy fighters are still firing at U.S. troops searching the steep terrain, a U.S. military spokesman said Tuesday.

Troops with the 82nd Airborne Division saw a man duck into a cave Monday as they were clearing more than 75 caves in the Adi Ghar mountain. They destroyed the cave with anti-tank rockets.

"I have heard that there are leaflets being passed out in bazaars in the vicinity of the border. I had heard that they were calling for a new jihad, but this happens about once every two months. There hasn't been a lot of results from it," he said.

**U.N. talk on Iraq:** Secretary of State Colin Powell, bidding for U.N. support, is set to present evidence that Iraq has hidden large caches of weapons of mass destruction from international inspectors and defied calls on it to disarm.

Powell's public presentation Wednesday to the U.N. Security Council in New York will be the centerpiece of a strenuous campaign to enlist support from Russia, France and other skeptical governments as well as from the American public.

Powell also planned a series of meetings with foreign ministers and ambassadors from all 14 other Security Council nations Tuesday and Wednesday. And all 14, plus Iraqi Ambassador Mohammed Al-Douri, are due to make statements Wednesday to the council in what could be a critical test of sentiment for using force to disarm Iraq.

### World

**Venezuela strike:** A two-month strike designed to force President Hugo Chavez's ouster crum-

bled as workers in all sectors except the oil industry returned to their jobs.

Stores, factories, schools and banks started opening their doors as the government raised oil production to 1.2 million barrels a day, up from 1.1 million a day over the weekend, according to dissident staff at the state oil company.

Fear of bankruptcy and shortages of gasoline and other essentials prompted leaders to end the strike, which began Dec. 2.

**British House of Lords:** Prime Minister Tony Blair faces opposition from most elected lawmakers over plans to reform Britain's 700-year-old House of Lords, a senior government member said Tuesday.

Robin Cook, the government's leader in the House of Commons, predicted lawmakers would vote Tuesday against Blair's proposal to make the upper chamber of Parliament a wholly appointed body.

Cook favors a House of Lords made up largely of elected members.

### Money matters

**Snow sworn in:** Former CSX railroad executive John Snow was sworn in Monday as the nation's 73rd treasury secretary, and he has his work cut out for him: Trying to steer the wobbly U.S. economy back onto firmer footing.

One of Snow's first major jobs will be selling President Bush's \$695 billion tax-cut plan, aimed at energizing the \$10.5 trillion economy. The proposal was included in the \$2.23 trillion budget for 2004 that Bush sent to Congress on Monday.

**Ephedra found unsafe:** Ephedra, an herb found in weight-loss and bodybuilding supplements, is unsafe even when taken in recommended doses and should be restricted, according to doctors who studied the herb.

Ephedra accounted for 64 percent of all adverse reactions involving herbs, even though it is found in fewer than 1 percent of all herbal products sold.

### Military

**Pilot error in Utah crash:** Pilot error caused the Oct. 25 midair training crash that killed one F-16C Air Force pilot and destroyed two aircraft, Air Force officials stated in a press release.

Both Fighting Falcon pilots, operating separate aircraft, were deemed at fault in the midair collision that happened 82 miles southwest of Hill Air Force Base, Utah, officials said Monday, the day the accident report was released.

According to that Air Combat Command Accident Investigation Board report, the two pilots failed to "properly coordinate their flight paths during a tactical turn."

Pilot 1st Lt. Jorma D. Huhtala died as a result of the collision, said Erin Zagursky, a spokeswoman at Langley Air Force Base, Va. The other pilot, Capt. David E. Roszmann, ejected safely without injury.

**Police offer reward in GI's shooting:** German police have offered a reward of 5,000 euros (about \$4,600) for information leading to the arrest of the gunman who shot an off-duty U.S. soldier near Schweinfurt early Monday, according to a statement from the district police in Schweinfurt.

The 26-year-old private first class had stopped his car about 5:30 a.m. at a roadside rest area to scrape ice off the windshield when someone confronted him and shot him in the left hand and a leg, a German police spokesman said.

After the shooting, he drove to a military police station in Schweinfurt. From there, he was taken to a hospital for surgery.

**Controller trial:** Air traffic controllers were discussing a handover of two American fighter jets when the aircraft crashed two years ago, a court-martial was told Monday.

During a three-way conversation between a controller at RAF Leuchars, a controller at RAF Lossiemouth and one of the pilots, contact with the F-15Cs was lost, according to British news reports of the trial being held at a Royal Navy base near Glasgow, Scotland.

Flight Lt. Malcolm Williams of RAF Leuchars faces charges of negligence for his role in the fatal crash on March 26, 2001, that claimed the lives of Air Force Lt. Col. Kenneth Hyvonen and Capt. Kirk Jones, both of the 48th Fighter Wing. He is charged with telling the pilots to descend to 4,000 feet when the safe altitude was 6,500 feet. The aircraft crashed in the Cairngorm Mountains.

The switch to controllers at RAF Lossiemouth should have taken a few seconds, but Williams spent about one minute briefing the other controller.

From wire and staff reports



# NASA looks for mistakes in analysis

BY MARCIA DUNN  
The Associated Press

SPACE CENTER, Houston — NASA engineers are taking a second, harder look at video, computer data and everything else that led them to conclude — perhaps wrongly — that a flyaway chunk of insulation did not harm space shuttle Columbia during liftoff.

"We are completely redoing the analysis from scratch," shuttle program manager Ron Dittmore said Monday, exactly one week after engineers assured him that any damage to the shuttle's thermal tiles was minimal. "We want to know if we made any mistakes."

The wrenching duplication of work to determine what doomed the shuttle Saturday morning, killing its seven crewmembers, was to be temporarily halted Tuesday so employees could take part in a memorial service at Johnson Space Center.

Practically from the start, investigators have zeroed in on a piece of foam insulation that fell off the shuttle's big external fuel tank during liftoff Jan. 16. The impact by the 2½-pound, 20-inch fragment may have damaged the heat tiles that keep the ship from burning up during re-entry into the atmosphere.

"We're making the assumption from the start that the external tank was the root cause of the problem that lost Columbia," Dittmore said. "That's a fairly drastic assumption, and it's sobering."

While Columbia was still in orbit, NASA engineers analyzed launch foot-

## Latest developments

Developments in the Columbia disaster:  
 ■ Members of the independent investigation board arrived in Nacogdoches, Texas, via helicopter to get a first-hand look at the debris scattered over the countryside.  
 ■ Investigators located the spacecraft's nose cone partially buried in a heavily wooded area of eastern Texas.  
 ■ Congressional leaders said Congress will carefully examine the need to boost NASA's budget while taking a longer view of where America is heading with its space program.  
 ■ Japan's space agency said it will not allow any Japanese astronauts to participate in space shuttle missions until it has determined them to be safe. Japanese astronaut Soichi Noguchi had been scheduled to fly on NASA's next shuttle mission.  
 ■ An unmanned Russian cargo craft docked at the international space station, bringing vital fuel and food to the outpost.

From The Associated Press

age frame-by-frame and were unable to determine for certain whether the shuttle was damaged by the insulation. But they ran computer analyses for different scenarios and different assumptions about the weight of the foam, its speed, and where under the left wing it might have hit, even looking at the possibility of tiles missing over an area of about 7 inches by 30 inches, NASA said.

The half-page engineering report — issued on Day 12 of the 16-day flight — indicated "the potential for a large damage area to the tile." But the analyses showed "no burn-through and no safety-of-flight issue," the report concluded.

High-level officials at NASA said they agreed at the time with the assessment.

"We were in complete concurrence," Michael Kostelnik, a NASA spaceflight office deputy, said at a news conference

Monday with NASA's top spaceflight official, William Readdy.

No one on the team, to Dittmore's knowledge, had any reservations about the conclusions and no one reported any concerns to a NASA hot line set up for just such occasions.

"Now I am aware, here two days later, that there have been some reservations expressed by certain individuals and it goes back in time," Dittmore said. "So we're reviewing those reservations again as part of our data base. They weren't part of our playbook at the time because they didn't surface. They didn't come forward."

The Columbia sustained significant tile damage in 1997, after NASA stopped using the coolant Freon in production of foam that coats the external fuel tank, a NASA engineer said at the time. The change was made because of the potential environmental damage Freon can cause.

In his December 1997 report, Greg Katnik, a mechanical systems engineer at Kennedy Space Center, raised the possibility that the new foam may have had some unknown characteristics that were not compatible with the severe conditions of takeoff.

On Monday, Readdy said the damage done by the broken-off piece of insulation is now being looked at very carefully.

"It may certainly be the leading candidate right now — we have to go through all the evidence and then rule things out very methodically in order to arrive at the cause," he said.

# Experts confident of identification of remains

The Associated Press

Some remains from the seven-member crew of the space shuttle Columbia have been recovered in rural east Texas, and forensics experts think the astronauts could be genetically identified despite the orbiter's disintegration 39 miles overhead.

NASA officials said Sunday that there have been at least three reports of local officials finding body parts on farmland and along rural roads near the Texas-Louisiana state line. That's the same region where the search for shuttle debris is concentrating.

Among the remains recovered are a charred torso, thigh

bone and skull with front teeth, and a charred leg. An empty astronaut's helmet also could contain some genetic traces.

"Remains of some astronauts have been found," said Eileen Hawley, a spokeswoman for Johnson Space Center. But the space agency gave out few other details.

Bob Cabana, director of flight crew operations, had said earlier Sunday that remains of all seven astronauts had been found, but later corrected himself.

The remains may be analyzed at the same center that identified the remains of the Challenger astronauts and the Pentagon victims of the Sept.

11, 2001, terrorist attack, the Charles C. Carson Center for Mortuary Affairs at Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

Officials had initially said identification would be done at Dover, but a base spokeswoman, Lt. Olivia Nelson, said Sunday: "Things are a little more tentative now. We're just not sure at this point."

Israel's U.S. ambassador was in Houston conferring with NASA officials about the remains of astronaut Ilan Ramon, who was an Israeli fighter pilot. Under Jewish law, mourners normally must bury their dead within 24 hours, then immediately begin observing a mourning ritual.

Experts said the identifica-

tion process for the seven astronauts who died in the accident may depend on DNA testing.

"DNA analysis certainly can do it if there are any cells left," said Carrie Whitcomb, director of the National Center for Forensic Science in Orlando, Fla. "If there is enough tissue to pick up, then there are lots of cells."

But forensic experts were less certain whether laboratory methods could compensate for remains that were contaminated by the toxic fuel and chemicals used throughout the space shuttle.

"Those would be new contaminants that we haven't dealt with before," Whitcomb said.

## Saddam: No ties to al-Qaida

*The Associated Press*

LONDON — Saddam Hussein, in an interview broadcast Tuesday, said that Iraq does not have a relationship with al-Qaida and reiterated that Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction.

"If we had a relationship with al-Qaida, and we believed in that relationship, we wouldn't be ashamed to admit it," the Iraqi leader said in the television interview with a retired British lawmaker, Tony Benn.

The interview was conducted Sunday in Baghdad for a new television network called "Arab Television," a yet-to-be-launched Arab TV station with administrative offices in London.

Sitting on a gilded chair at a round table next to a white, black and red Iraqi flag with a green star, Saddam spoke in a carefully controlled voice.

He denied that Iraq has any weapons of mass destruction and said the United States was looking for a pretext to launch a war against his regime. But he said Iraq does not want a confrontation.

"Iraq has no interest in war. No Iraqi official or ordinary citizens have expressed a wish to go to war," he said.

Saddam said his international opponents were trying to justify war and that he had no objections to making sure Iraq was free of weapons of mass destruction.

"These weapons do not come in small pills that you can hide in your pocket. These are weapons of mass destruction and it is easy to work out if Iraq has them or not," he said.

In the interview, Saddam said the United States aims to take over Iraq's oil supplies in a bid to "control the world" so it can dictate to other powers, including China, Russia and Europe.

Saddam also claimed the United States was acting under the influence of Israel.

# Chirac stands firm against war on Iraq

BY ANGELA DOLAND

*The Associated Press*

LE TOUQUET, France — British Prime Minister Tony Blair failed Tuesday to persuade France to join a U.S.-led coalition ready to take quick military action against Iraq.

Despite intense pressure by Blair, French President Jacques Chirac said he remained steadfastly opposed to war against Baghdad unless U.N. inspectors were given all the time they needed to search for banned weapons.

Asked how much time the weapons inspectors should have — weeks or months — Chirac responded: "I can't put a timeframe on it. It's up to them to decide."

"There is still much to be done in the way of disarmament by peaceful means," Chirac said.

He also refused to say whether France would use its veto as one of five permanent members of the Security Council to block a resolution authorizing military action against Iraq. France has hinted in the past it might be willing to do so.

In an interview on national television late last month, Chirac indicated he favored granting a request by the United Nation's chief inspectors for several more months to determine whether Saddam Hussein's government is hiding weapons of mass destruction.

France is waiting to see what U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and chief U.N. weapons inspectors Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei will say to the U.N. Security Council in the upcoming days.

Bidding for U.N. support,

Powell is set to present evidence Wednesday to the U.N. Security Council that Iraq has hidden large caches of weapons of mass destruction from international inspectors and has defied calls to disarm.

Blix and ElBaradei are to report to the Security Council on Feb. 14 on the progress of inspections and Iraq's cooperation. The report will likely play a crucial role in the council's decision on next steps in Iraq.

"I think we should take account of it very carefully," Blair said at a joint new conference.

Blair said the two leaders continued to view handling of the Iraq crisis differently but that it was important to focus on the "common points: support for the notion of disarming Iraq and belief this is best pursued through the U.N."

## Turkish leaders hint at support for U.S.

BY JAMES C. HELICKE

*The Associated Press*

ISTANBUL, Turkey — Turkey's top politician warned legislators Tuesday that the chances for war were increasing and suggested that if parliament did not back the United States, Turkey risked losing a say in the future of neighboring Iraq.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan's statement appeared to prepare legislators for a possible Friday vote on basing U.S. troops in Turkey for an Iraq invasion. The speech was a dramatic shift for Erdogan and his fellow legislators who in the past have only spoken of the need to avoid war.

"The decisions we make for war are not because we want a war, but so we can contribute to peace as soon as possible — at a point when it is not possible to prevent war," Erdogan,

leader of the Islamic-rooted governing Justice and Development Party told party lawmakers. "Our moral priority is peace, but our political priority is our dear Turkey."

Turks overwhelmingly oppose a war but analysts say that U.S. pressure to back the United States is so strong that Turkey could seriously harm its relationship with Washington if it does not allow in American troops for a possible invasion.

On Monday, Prime Minister Abdullah Gul said he would ask parliament this week to allow foreign troops in Turkey — a motion that could open the way for basing U.S. troops for a possible war.

Gul's announcement followed Friday's decision by Turkey's top generals, the president, and government leaders to endorse stationing foreign troops in the country.

Parliament must approve any deployment.

"If we remain outside the equation at the beginning of the operation, it might not be possible to ... affect developments after the operation," Erdogan said. "And if that happens Turkey's long term interests and, God forbid, its security might be endangered."

"We are regretful to see that the Iraqi administration, which has to take strong steps for peace, isn't taking the necessary steps," Erdogan said. "Unfortunately, we face a situation where the innocent people [of Iraq] are going to pay for their leader's blindness."

Erdogan, as head of the party, is considered the power behind the scenes in Turkey. For legal reasons he was not allowed to run for a seat in parliament, but he is expected to run in March by-elections and take over as prime minister after elections.



# AF rotation extension may hit 1,500 in Europe

*Stars and Stripes*

More than 1,500 airmen stationed in Europe likely will be serving longer deployments because of the recent extension announced by the Air Force's chief of staff.

Gen. John P. Jumper made the announcement last week, turning scheduled three-month deployments to such places as Qatar into indefinite stays. Most of those affected are serving in the Air and Space Expeditionary Forces 7 and 8.

For U.S. Air Forces in Europe, the air bases bearing the largest share of responsibility for that rotation are Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany, RAF Lakenheath, England, and Aviano Air Base, Italy. The 500-member contingent from Spangdahlem that recently deployed also has been included in the extension, according to base officials.

Maj. Jim Serpa, the deputy director

for manpower and personnel for USAFE, said it's too early to say when the airmen will return to their bases. He said the extension was not one the Air Force wanted to make, but — with increased missions lately, particularly in southwest Asia — it has discovered it simply can't fill all the slots.

"There are more deployment requirements out there to fill than we have in the AEF bucket," he said.

That means that those scheduled to take part in AEFs 9 and 10 couldn't fill all the jobs. In fact, there are some airmen who are still deployed from AEFs 5 and 6. Technically, they're also included in the extension.

Serpa said the good news for bases in Europe is that none of those hit the hardest in the current rotation were scheduled to bear the heaviest loads in the next rotation. RAF Mildenhall and Spangdahlem are scheduled to provide the most airmen from Europe during the next rotation.

## Rota's 'Bull Ring' comes down

*Stars and Stripes*

NAVAL STATION ROTA, Spain — A Cold War relic that has been a base landmark for more than three decades will soon be history.

A team of Defense Department workers began dismantling the naval station's 90-foot-tall circular antenna array last week. The antenna — known as "The Bull Ring" by base personnel and Rota residents — has been a part of the installation's landscape since 1964.

Part of the military's high-frequency direction finding system, the antenna once helped Navy code breakers track radio signals from aircraft and ships and intercept voice and message traffic from short-wave channels.

The military has turned to more modern technology, making the double fence of interconnecting copper cables obsolete.

"Technology has gone past it in leaps and bounds," said Senior Chief Petty Officer Paul Zimmerman, assigned to Naval Security Group Activity Rota.

The antenna was an important intelligence-gathering piece during the Cold War and is one of only two of its kind remaining in the U.S. Navy. The military will soon demolish the other is in San Diego.

The Defense Department has torn down most of the antennas because they

are outdated and could become a hazard if not maintained.

Rota's antenna has not been used since the early 1990s.

At one time, the Navy had about a dozen similar circular antennas scattered around the world in places, such as Japan, Iceland and Guam. They are often nicknamed "elephant cages" or "dinosaur cages" because the interconnecting wires look like some sort of fence out of Jurassic Park.

Residents dubbed the antenna in Rota "Plaza de Toros," or "The Bull Ring." The secrecy of the work performed by the command led to widespread speculation in town that the ring was a high-tech security fence.

Workers estimate that it will take three weeks to take apart the antenna and haul it away, using cranes, trucks and metal crunching equipment. The team will tear down 81, 90-foot tall wooden poles and 120 shorter poles.

They also will have to remove 20 miles of copper wire. The team removed 1,750 tie rods — used to keep tension on the wires — Friday.

Workers expect to use as many as 80 truckloads to haul the wire, wood and other parts away from the site located on the northern boundary of the base.

Most of the material will be recycled and sold as scrap.

## U.S. Marines in Philippines

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — About 600 U.S. Marines from Okinawa began a three-week training exercise Monday in the Philippines.

Dubbed "Marine Interoperability Exercise," the training is to focus on small-unit patrols, reconnaissance, helicopter missions and ordnance identification.

Marines from the 3rd Marine Division landed at the former U.S. naval base at Subic Bay over the weekend.

The training will overlap the annual "Balance Piston" exercise that began last week at Clark and Fort Magsaysay. About 450 American troops are taking part in Balance Piston from:

- The 353rd Special Operations Group, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.

- The 160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment based in Taegu, South Korea.

- The 1st Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group from Torii Station, Okinawa.

- U.S. Special Forces, meanwhile, continue to conduct anti-terrorism training in the southern Philippines.

## NCO wins leadership award

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Sullivan recently received a prestigious award from the Surface Navy Association for his leadership abilities while serving aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Essex.

At a Washington, D.C., ceremony, Sullivan received the Adm. Arleigh Burke Surface Warfare Operational Excellence Award.

The award honors those displaying superior achievement in the operational aspects of surface warfare by qualified surface warfare officers and enlisted surface warfare specialists.

## Unit wins engineering award

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The 86th Civil Engineer Group has won the Maj. Gen. Robert H. Curtin Award for the best large civil engineer unit in the Air Force.

The group, headquartered at Ramstein Air Base, provides, manages and protects property assigned to the 86th Airlift Wing, the Kaiserslautern Military Community, and associated units while supporting worldwide contingencies, according to a news release.

The Curtin award, sponsored by the Society of American Military Engineers, recognizes the most outstanding Air Force civil engineer units in large and small unit categories.

From staff reports

## Gen. Franks subject of internal investigation

*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Army Gen. Tommy Franks, commander of the war in Afghanistan and planning for any war in Iraq, is under investigation for alleged abuses of his office relating to his wife, defense officials said Tuesday.

Although the investigation remains unfinished, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld issued a statement in support of Franks.

The Pentagon's inspector general has been looking into charges that Franks allowed his wife, Cathy, to sit in on highly classified briefings and may not have properly reimbursed the government for travel expenses when she accompanied him on some trips, defense officials said on condition of anonymity.

Army Lt. Col. Gary Keck, spokesman for the inspector general, declined to comment on details of the probe, as did the U.S. Central Command, which Franks heads.

"I am aware of the investigation and am cooperating with it," Franks said in a brief statement. "It would not be appropriate to comment on the investigation until it is complete."

The charges were made by a subordinate. Two senior members of the Central Command staff declined to act on the complaints before they eventually were taken to the inspector general, according to The Washington Post, which first reported the investigation in Tuesday's editions.

It was unclear what, if any, disciplinary action might follow from the probe of Franks.

"Investigations such as this are not unusual and properly are required whenever the Office of the Inspector General is made aware of an allegation," Rumsfeld said. "Without commenting on the merits of the investigation, which is not yet before me, I want to emphasize that General Franks has my full trust, respect and confidence."

## Armitage: U.S., N. Korea can work out differences

*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — The State Department's second ranking official said Tuesday he has no doubt that the United States and North Korea will open a dialogue on Pyongyang's nuclear development programs.

"Of course we're going to have direct talks with the North Koreans," Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage told a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing.

He said the initiative would be carried out in concert with other nations so that North Korea's weapons program is

not perceived as strictly a U.S.-North Korean problem.

Armitage went further than the administration had previously in discussing the likelihood of U.S.-North Korean talks.

Last fall, the administration's position was that there would be no dialogue with North Korea in response to its violations of commitments not to develop nuclear weapons.

Armitage ruled out U.S. acceptance of North Korea's demand for negotiations leading to a nonaggression treaty.

Noting that treaties require Senate ratification, Armitage

said there was "zero chance" of a proposed treaty receiving the required two-thirds majority support for Senate confirmation.

There is growing alarm in both countries about North Korea's apparent attempt to increase its arsenal of nuclear weapons. Bush says he believes a diplomatic solution can be reached.

The Pentagon is weighing the possibility of bolstering U.S. forces in the region. Armitage said plans were being made in case "North Korea would in some fashion try to take advantage of our focus on Iraq."

## Snow, rain hit U.S. from Midwest to New England

*The Associated Press*

A storm system spread heavy snow and freezing rain from Nebraska to New England on Monday, closing roads and schools. More than a foot of snow fell on parts of Minnesota, and northern Maine was digging out from 20 inches.

Snow and freezing drizzle closed schools in Wisconsin, Nebraska and northwest Kansas, where up to 5 inches of snow fell during the night. Wind up to 40 mph helped created near-whiteout condi-

tions across western and central Nebraska.

"I love the snow. It's about time we got some," Colby Price said outside the Grand Hotel in Minneapolis, where workers built a snowman to amuse the guests.

Up to 13 inches of snow fell overnight at Montevideo and New London in western Minnesota, and communities just outside the Minneapolis-St. Paul area collected 6 to 9 inches.

More than 120 school districts reported closings in Minnesota and western Wis-

consin, according to Minneapolis' WCCO radio.

"It was pretty deceiving out there," said Gary Bach, the police chief in Pewaukee, Wis. "It looked like water on the roads, but it was ice."

In New England, northern Maine already had up to 20 inches of snow Monday morning following a storm that created whiteout conditions with wind gusting to 40 mph.

Elsewhere around Maine, a sloppy mix of snow, rain and freezing rain left thousands of customers without electrical service and sent numerous cars sliding off highways.

## Dems attack GOP budget

WASHINGTON — President Bush's \$2.23 trillion budget for 2004 and its call for new tax cuts was criticized by Democrats and got a mixed reaction from Republicans on Tuesday as the White House began defending its proposal on Capitol Hill.

A day after Bush introduced the plan, White House budget chief Mitchell Daniels defended its \$1.3 trillion in 10-year tax cuts for reviving the economy in an appearance before the House Budget Committee.

The plan also projects deficits of \$307 billion this year and \$304 billion next year — surpassing the record \$290 billion deficit of 1992 under the first President Bush.

The White House blames the weak economy and the war on terrorism for the shortfalls and says the red ink can be managed.

## U.S. states' budget woes worsen

WASHINGTON — The already grim financial health of state governments is worsening, with tax revenues falling and budget gaps widening during the first half of the current fiscal year.

Most states are considering tax increases, as well as more cuts to bridge the difference between weak tax revenues and the money needed to run government.

But a report by the National Conference of State Legislatures released Tuesday concludes there is "no immediate end in sight" to severe budget troubles.

Next year promises to be worse, the report found.

*From The Associated Press*



## Alzheimer's study

WASHINGTON — Losing your memory in old age sometimes may have nothing to do with Alzheimer's and lots to do with blood sugar.

So suggests new research that found people who don't process blood sugar normally — a silent, pre-diabetic condition — are likely to suffer poor memory and even a shrinkage of the brain region crucial for recall.

The good news: If the small study from New York University is confirmed, simple diet and exercise could help many people protect their brains from the fogged memory associated with aging.

Maybe the threat of memory loss will provide the final push for people to take those steps, says lead researcher Dr. Antonio Convit.

"That's a great motivator to stay off the calories and stay off the couch," he said.

## Executive solar panels

With little fanfare, the Bush administration has installed three solar energy systems on the grounds of the White House.

It happened in August, when, over the course of three days, the White House had 167 solar energy panels placed atop a maintenance building outside the residence.

On two other buildings — an adjoining maintenance building and the president's cabana — systems were installed that will help heat the water for, among other uses, the presidential pool and spa.

"I think the symbolic nature of this exceeds the actual kilowatts produced," said Solar Energy Industries Association spokesman Michael Paranzino.

President Bush, who uses solar power on his ranch in Texas, has yet to trumpet the little-noticed panels, as evidence, perhaps, of his support for renewable energy.

A spokeswoman for the White House said the administration considered the changes an internal matter that it did not need to publicize.

From wire reports

# Vatican booklet warns faithful to beware of New Age teachings

BY NICOLE WINFIELD

*The Associated Press*

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican weighed in Monday on the New Age movement, saying some aspects of the search for inner peace were positive but warning that they can't replace true Christian religion.

In a 90-page booklet dotted with references to the "Magical Mystery Tour," "Feng Shui" and the dawning of the "Age of Aquarius," the Vatican addressed a topic usually reserved for the self-help sections of bookstores.

The Vatican said the book was the product of requests by bishops for guidance on determining whether practices embraced by New Agers, including yoga, channeling and healing by crystals, were compatible with Christianity.

The booklet doesn't give a definitive answer. Rather, in setting out a study of the movement — its terminology, history and cultural context — the book stresses that the question comes down to one of individually discerning compatibility.

Monsignor Michael Fitzgerald, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, said at a news conference that many aspects of the New Age movement were viewed positively by the

## Harry Potter gets green light

*The Associated Press*

VATICAN CITY — The Vatican is giving two thumbs up to the Harry Potter series.

The Rev. Don Peter Fleetwood said at a Vatican news conference Monday that the good vs. evil plotlines of the best-selling books are imbued with Christian morals.

"I don't see any, any problems in the Harry Potter series," Fleetwood said.

Fleetwood was responding to questions after the release of a new Vatican document on the New Age phenomenon, which he helped draft as a member of the Pontifical Council for Culture.

Fleetwood was asked whether the magic embraced by Harry Potter and his pals at the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry was problematic for

the Catholic Church. Some evangelical groups have condemned the series for glamorizing magic and the occult.

"I don't think there's anyone in this room who grew up without fairies, magic and angels in their imaginary world," said Fleetwood, who is British. "They aren't bad. They aren't serving as a banner for an anti-Christian ideology."

"If I have understood well the intentions of Harry Potter's author, they help children to see the difference between good and evil," said Fleetwood, currently in the secretariat of the European Episcopal Conference. "And she is very clear on this."

He said British author J.K. Rowling was "Christian by conviction, is Christian in her mode of living, even in her way of writing."

church, including environmental preservation.

The booklet said the popularity of the New Age movement, particularly in the Western world, was due to a "spiritual hunger of contemporary men and women" unsatisfied with existing religion, political institutions or science.

The booklet, "Jesus Christ the Bearer of the Water of Life: A Christian Reflection on the 'New Age,'" was prepared by Fitzgerald's council and the Pontifical Council for Culture, with help from the Vatican's orthodoxy watchdog, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

## Germany heads Security Council

UNITED NATIONS — Strongly opposed to war in Iraq, Germany began its first working day as president of the U.N. Security Council on Monday during a critical month when the United States might press the council to support military action to disarm Saddam Hussein.

Germany's U.N. Ambassador Gunter Pleuger spent much of the day holding one-on-one meetings with council members and other U.N. member states. But he actually began work more than a week ago, filling in key Iraq-related dates on February's calendar.

As president of the council, Germany controls its agenda.

## 32 indicted for E. Timor crimes

JAKARTA, Indonesia — The United Na-

tions on Tuesday indicted 32 people — including 15 Indonesian soldiers — for allegedly murdering and torturing East Timorese during the country's bloody break with Indonesia in 1999.

It was the largest indictment so far by the U.N. Special Crimes Unit, and the list of suspects includes four Indonesian officers and Joao Tavares, the head of a pro-Indonesian umbrella militia group.

All 32 are accused of crimes against humanity for allegedly committed the violence at the time of a U.N.-sponsored independence referendum in 1999.

The U.N. indictment contradicts the view of Indonesian prosecutors, who have argued the military did not actively participate in the bloodshed but instead simply failed to prevent the violence that led to the deaths of up to 2,000 Timorese.

From wire reports

## BASKETBALL

NEW YORK — Florida, the only member of the top five not to lose last week, moved to No. 1 in the AP men's college basketball poll for the first time in the team's 88-year history.

The Gators (18-2) jumped from fourth to No. 1 after matching the longest winning streak in school history at 14 games with victories last week over LSU and Arkansas.

They also took advantage of losses by top-five teams Arizona, Pittsburgh, Texas and Duke, the teams surrounding Florida.

Florida is the 49th school to be ranked No. 1 in the history of the AP

poll, which started during the 1948-49 season.

NEW YORK — After an impressive victory at Duke, Connecticut was a unanimous choice to replace the Blue Devils at No. 1 in the AP women's basketball poll.

Connecticut (20-0) is the only unbeaten team in Division I and has won a women's record 59 straight games. Duke (20-1) was No. 1 in the first 12 polls of the season.

CLEVELAND — LeBron James has yet to make a legal move to get back on the basketball court.

James, the nation's top high school player and a projected NBA star, did not appeal his banishment from playing as was expected, but will likely do so before St. Vincent-St. Mary play in the Isles Prime Time Shootout in Trenton, N.J., this weekend.

ST. MORITZ, Switzerland — Michaela Dorfmeister of Austria edged surprising Americans Kirsten Clark and Jonna Mendes to win the super giant slalom at the world championships.

After just two races at the world championships, the Americans have three medals — one short of the proclaimed goal for the entire two weeks. Bode Miller shared the silver in a super G on Sunday.

Dorfmeister's second world title followed her downhill victory in 2001.

## HOCKEY

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Buffalo businessman Mark Hamister suspended his bid to purchase the bankrupt Buffalo Sabres.

Continued on Page 9

## Jackson show feeds tabloids

A revealing and unsettling documentary in which **Michael Jackson** revealed that he sometimes lets children sleep in his bed unleashed a torrent of sharply divided opinion about the reclusive King of Pop.

Friends said Tuesday that the 90-minute program by British journalist **Martin Bashir** showed a troubled but innocent genius with a deep love of children.

But **Britain's** tabloid press pounced on the man they call "Wacko Jacko." The Sun said the "shocking confession" would end Jackson's career, while the Daily Express said Jackson "faces a wave of revulsion."

In 1993, Jackson — who says he identifies with Peter Pan and lives on a ranch called Neverland — was accused of molesting a boy who had stayed at his home. He denied the allegations, and no charges were laid.

"I fully trust Michael; he is a pure innocent human being. He brings so much joy into the lives of people," said psychic **Uri Geller**, a friend of Jackson, who said he helped set up the interview.

"I think Michael was brutally honest. He was direct. He never flinched from the most difficult questions," Geller told British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

In the interview, Jackson faced tough questions about plastic surgery, his unhappy childhood, the child abuse allegations and the notorious baby-dangling incident.

Jackson was shown with several of the children who regularly sleep over at his **California** ranch, and was seen riding a Ferris wheel, driving go-carts and climbing a tree on the 3,000-acre property.

When Bashir asked Jackson about his friendships with children, Jackson said: "I have slept in a bed with many children," including actor **Macaulay Culkin** and his brother **Kieran**.

"When you say 'bed,' you're thinking sexual," Jackson said. "It's not sexual, we're going to sleep. I tuck them in. ... It's very charming, it's very sweet."

The singer has a 5-year-old son,

## Sports in brief

## Faces 'n' places

**Prince Michael I**, and 4-year-old daughter, **Paris**, born during his marriage to nurse **Debbie Rowe**, which ended in 1999. He also has an infant son, **Prince Michael II**, whose mother has been a mystery.

Jackson told Bashir that the baby was conceived by a surrogate mother whom he had never met. But at another point during "Living With Michael Jackson," Jackson said he had been in a relationship with the unidentified mother when the baby was conceived.

Also, Jackson denied having had any alterations to his face other than two operations on his nose because "it helped me breathe better so I can hit higher notes."

"I am telling you the honest truth," he said. "I didn't do anything to my face."

Bashir — well-known for an interview with **Princess Diana**, during which she admitted being unfaithful to **Prince Charles** — spent eight months making the program.

## Poundstone probation eased

A **California** judge has eased terms of probation for comedian **Paula Poundstone**, who in December regained full custody of three adopted children she lost after pleading no contest to child endangerment.

**Superior Court Judge Bernard Kamins** reduced Poundstone's psychological counseling sessions from four to two a month and her Alcoholics Anonymous meetings from three to two a week.

"Everything went really well," said **Rich Pfeiffer**, Poundstone's attorney.

## Improving with age

**Natalie Cole** knows a little something about musical influences.

First, there was her father, **Nat King Cole**. Then, there were all of his friends.

"When I was growing up, I had so many musical influences I still feel a little schizophrenic," Cole told the audience at a benefit for the arts program at

the **Fullerton** campus of California State University.

Cole remembered when she was younger, her front teeth missing, and she offered to sing for her father, who thought the tune would be one of his. Instead, she sang a less-than-stellar rendition of **Ella Fitzgerald's** "A Tisket-A-Tasket."

"He was mortified," she recalled.

Cole, who turns 53 on Thursday, then gave a much better rendition of Fitzgerald's song.

## Dogged pursuit of a dream

Musher **DeeDee Jonrowe** is refusing to let a grueling course of chemotherapy keep her from taking on another grueling course — the 2003 Iditarod dog sled race, which starts March 1.

Jonrowe, 49, was diagnosed with breast cancer in July and is recovering from treatment that sometimes left her so weak she couldn't close her hands.

"I was slapped completely flat," said Jonrowe, who has finished 19 Iditarod races.

During last year's Iditarod, Jonrowe fell away from the leaders because of exhaustion. She finished 16th.

## Gold Medal for Robinson?

**Jackie Robinson** will be nominated for the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his achievements as the first black player in Major League Baseball, the **Boston Red Sox** said.

The announcement that the nomination will be filed this week in Congress came at a symposium Friday on what would have been Robinson's 84th birthday.

The Red Sox, the last big league team to integrate, gave Robinson a tryout but chose not to sign him. Robinson went on to break baseball's color barrier with the **Brooklyn Dodgers** in 1947.

"Jackie Robinson was more than a sports hero, he was an American hero. He transcended sports and helped transform the battle for civil rights," said Sen. **John F. Kerry, D-Mass.**, a co-sponsor of the nomination.

From The Associated Press



# Thomas questions two-game suspension

## Coach calls league's recent punishment of Pacers 'very excessive'

BY DAN GELSTON

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana Pacers coach Isiah Thomas doesn't think the NBA is targeting his team for its recent combative behavior. However, he does wonder if the league is treating their outburst unfairly.

Thomas said Monday he didn't agree with the NBA's decision to suspend him for two games for escalating an on-court altercation and not acting as a peacemaker during a fight with the Raptors.

"I don't understand it and I think it's been very excessive," he said.

Thomas will miss Tuesday's game

against the Los Angeles Lakers, but is allowed to coach practice and will lead the East team in the All-Star Game in Atlanta on Sunday. The Pacers lead the Eastern Conference with a 34-14 record.

The trouble for Thomas began Friday when he became involved in an altercation between Toronto's Morris Peterson and Al Harrington.

Peterson tripped Harrington — on purpose, Thomas said — and when no flagrant foul was called, the Pacers coach left his seat and got into a shouting match with Peterson.

Thomas was restrained by Raptors coach Lenny Wilkens and ejected by referee Steve Javie. Thomas admits that after Peterson cursed at him, he cursed back, but that was all.

Then came the news on Saturday that Stu Jackson, NBA senior vice president of basketball operations was suspending Thomas.

"Coach Thomas did not act as peacemaker during this incident," Jackson said.

Thomas, Indiana's third-year coach, said he was stunned.

"I've been in this league 20 years and I don't remember a time where a coach or players have been suspended for multiple games for arguing," Thomas said.

Thomas also was angry with the four-game suspension levied against forward Ron Artest for confronting the Miami Heat bench and brushing up against coach Pat Riley during a victo-

ry Jan. 27, then making an obscene gesture toward the Miami crowd.

Artest has a pattern of bad behavior and his punishment came just a few weeks after he was suspended for hurling a TV monitor and smashing an expensive camera after a close loss in New York. 3. He also was fined \$10,000 for shoving Dallas' Raja Bell.

Thomas said the league was correct in suspending Artest for breaking the camera but had a beef with the Miami incident.

"Nobody threw a punch. Nobody swung at anybody," Thomas said.

Thomas referred to last season when Lakers guard Mitch Richmond was only fined \$5,000 for making an obscene gesture toward fans in Detroit.

### Nets 109, Sonics 108 (OT)

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Kenyon Martin scored a career-high 35 points and Jason Kidd hit a three-point shot in the final 1:31 of overtime Monday to lead New Jersey to a 109-108 victory over Seattle.

Desmond Mason scored a season-high 30 points but missed a three-point attempt at the buzzer in a disheartening loss for Seattle, which rallied from a 17-point deficit in the second half.

Martin added 12 rebounds and a last-second block of Rashard Lewis shot at the end of regulation. Kidd finished with 20 points and 12 rebounds, winning his point-guard matchup with Gary Payton, who had 12 points and seven assists.

### NBA

Lewis added 25 points and eight rebounds for Seattle.

### Heat 99, Hawks 79

MIAMI — Eddie Jones scored 26 points, including 5-for-8 shooting from three-point range, as Miami ended Atlanta's three-game winning streak.

Reserve forward LaPhonso Ellis added 15 points and Mike James had 13 as the Heat bench outscored Atlanta's reserves 39-15. Brian Grant got his 19th dou-

ble-double of the season with 11 points and 14 rebounds.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim had 19 points and 10 rebounds, but poor shooting by his teammates left the Hawks short of scoring. Jason Terry was 5-for-13 for 13 points, while Glenn Robinson shot 5-for-18 from the floor for 12 points.

### Hornets 103, Celtics 96

NEW ORLEANS — Jamal Mashburn scored 30 points, including a pair of tough jumpers down the stretch, as New Orleans beat Boston to extend the Celtics' losing streak to four games.

Continued on Page 10

# Agent: Robbins has bipolar disorder, sorry for missing game

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The mystery surrounding Oakland Raiders center Barret Robbins has become a little clearer.

Robbins' agent confirmed Monday that the All-Pro lineman who disappeared the night before the Super Bowl has bipolar disorder, and he expressed "remorse and deep sadness" for missing the game.

Robbins remains hospitalized because of his condition, though he has left San Diego, agent Drew Pittman told the San Francisco Chronicle.

Pittman also released a statement on behalf of Robbins.

"Barret would like to express his remorse and deep sadness for the events surrounding the Super Bowl," the statement said. "He knows many people have been hurt by his actions, including his family, his teammates, the Raider organization, the Raider Nation, and the game of football."

The statement, which also acknowledged that alcohol was a factor in Robbins' troubles, marked the first time he has commented publicly since he disappeared Jan. 25, the day before the Raiders' 48-21 Super Bowl loss to Tampa Bay in San Diego.

Robbins missed two meetings and a walkthrough, and Raiders coach Bill Callahan said Robbins was incoherent

and didn't know where he was when he showed up Saturday night. Callahan dismissed him, and Adam Treu started in his place.

The 6-foot-3, 320-pound Robbins has a history of depression and reportedly had stopped taking his medication. A friend who told a newspaper he'd been drinking with Robbins the night before the game said Robbins was despondent and talked about suicide.

Pittman said Robbins' football future is uncertain, but last week Callahan left open the possibility he could return to the team.

Raiders senior assistant Bruce Allen said he had no response to Pittman's statement, except that the team has "been monitoring the situation from the beginning."

Robbins was harshly criticized by teammates at first, but the revelations about his medical problems, as well as his apology, has muted some of the resentment.

"If he has a health problem, it's a different situation," left guard Frank Middleton said Monday after returning from the Pro Bowl in Hawaii. Middleton had not heard about Robbins' apology.

Robbins, 29, made the Pro Bowl for the first time this season, his eighth in the NFL, but did not play Sunday in Honolulu. A year after missing the final 14 games of 2001 with an injured right knee, he was a pivotal part of an offensive line that helped the Raiders produce the league's top offense.

Continued from Page 8

Hamster's decision came hours before he faced a fourth and likely final NHL deadline to sign an asset purchase agreement. And it was made after his majority partner, Todd Berman, president and founder of New York City-based Chartwell Investments, withdrew his financial support.

PITTSBURGH — Mario Lemieux, out of the Pittsburgh Penguins' lineup for all but a few minutes of their past 11 games because of a sore groin, will play Tuesday night against Vancouver.

### FOOTBALL

DETROIT — The Detroit Lions hope to hire former San Francisco 49ers coach Steve Mariucci as their next coach by Tuesday after trying to reach a deal for the past six days.

### BASEBALL

NEW YORK — The baseball commissioner's office has hired a former federal prosecutor to work on its evaluation of Pete Rose's application for reinstatement.

Martin Weinstein, a partner in the Washington office of Foley & Lardner, has been working on the Rose case since shortly after the career hits leader applied for reinstatement in 1997, according to Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer.

## Sports in brief continued

### AUTO RACING

HUNTERSVILLE, N.C. — Matt Kenseth signed a long-term deal with Roush Racing, preventing what was expected to be a competitive free-agency chase.

Roush also inked Kurt Busch to a new undisclosed deal, hours after it was announced that his brother, Kyle, would not sign with the company as planned when he turns 18 in May.

### TRACK AND FIELD

LONDON — Track's governing body welcomed Charlie Francis' anti-doping statement but wants Ben Johnson's former coach to prove he does not condone the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

The International Association of Athletics Federations also said it was still waiting for sprint stars Marion Jones and Tim Montgomery to explain why they are working with Francis.

### TENNIS

PARIS — Stephanie Cohen Aloro upset 15th-seeded Anna Pistolesi 6-3, 6-2 in the Gaz de France Open first round.

The top-seeded players received byes to the second round, including Serena Williams, Daniela Hantuchova, Amelie Mauresmo and Jelena Dokic.

HYDERABAD, India — Seventh-seeded Angelique Widjaja beat Jelena Kostanic 1-6, 6-4, 6-3 to reach the Indian Open second round.

Also advancing were eighth-seeded Silvija Talaja and Andrea Vanc, who earned a place in the draw when Chanda Rubin withdrew.

### HORSE RACING

HALLANDALE BEACH, Fla. — Boston Brat, a 6-year-old who set a Gulfstream Park record for five furlongs in his last start, tied the track record for 5½ furlongs.

Boston Brat covered the distance in 1:02.40, equaling the track record set by Rare Rock in January 1998.

### OLYMPICS

ATHENS, Greece — The government will monitor all budgets for the 2004 Olympics amid fears of escalating costs. Local organizers previously were free of financial supervision.

The government said its share of Olympics costs will not exceed a target of \$5 billion and has agreed to a \$1.6 billion loan from the European Investment Bank for Olympics projects.

From The Associated Press

# UConn coach Calhoun has prostate cancer

## Blaney will lead Huskies during absence

BY DONNA TOMMELLO

The Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — Jim Calhoun has delivered many difficult speeches to his teams during 30 years of coaching. This one might have been the toughest.

The Connecticut men's coach informed the Huskies on Monday that he will be gone for about a month for treatment of the early stages of prostate cancer, a condition his doctors consider very treatable.

"It wasn't the easiest thing to say to them, that I'm not going to be with them," Calhoun said.

The 60-year-old coach will take a three- to four-week medical leave, with assistant George Blaney coaching on an interim basis.

Surgery is scheduled for Thursday. Calhoun's doctor, UConn Health Center urologist Peter Albertsen, said the cancer was detected early and was "relatively low-grade."

"Coach Calhoun's condition appears to be very treatable, and we anticipate his return to normal job-related activities within three or four weeks," said Albertsen, who will perform the operation.

Calhoun learned Friday he had cancer, and on Monday he used the language of war in declaring he would beat the disease.

"I want to attack this thing," he said. "I want to get it out of my system, and I want to fight this like I've fought everything else in my life. I'll win this battle, and with my family and the love and prayers of everybody, be back on the sidelines soon."

The 18th-ranked Huskies (13-4, 4-2 Big East) play Wednesday at Virginia Tech. The Huskies are coming off a 95-71 loss to Boston College on Saturday, their worst defeat at Gampel Pavilion.

"We can handle what we have to handle," Blaney said. "He's one of the strongest guys I ever met. I know that he will fight it — that's not been a question."

Before coming to UConn, Blaney was the coach at Holy Cross for 22 years; he then coached at Seton Hall for three years, until 1997.

Now in his 17th season at Connecticut, Calhoun has led the Huskies to national prominence, peaking with the 1999 NCAA title.

With a career record of 637-290, including 14 seasons at Northeastern, Calhoun is eighth among active Division I coaches in victories.

Calhoun said his cancer was detected through routine prostate screening and touted the benefits of the procedure.

"Do your family, do your loved ones a favor, and make sure you get yourself screened," he said.

Former UConn star Donyell Marshall, who played for Calhoun from 1991-94 and now is with the Chicago Bulls, said his ex-coach has "always been a fighter."

"I'm just glad he caught it early. It's not going to take years or whatever," he said before Monday night's loss in Phoenix.

When Calhoun broke the news to his current team, the locker room fell silent.

"My mouth just dropped," said guard Taliek Brown. "All my prayers are with him. Everybody will just play his hardest for him."

Added guard Tony Robertson: "He said he just wanted us to play hard. He said he has enough people praying for him to get better."

"Basketball is the least thing he should be worrying about right now."

On Sunday, Calhoun called up Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim, who had prostate cancer surgery in St. Louis last December and missed three games. Boeheim also lost both parents to cancer.

"I know he's a lot tougher and in better shape than I was, so he'll come through this and be back out yelling at everybody," Boeheim said after Monday night's 88-80 victory over Georgetown, which gave the coach 638 career victories — one more than Calhoun.

The Huskies have been to the NCAA tournament 10 times under Calhoun. Last year they made the round of eight before losing to eventual national champion Maryland.

UConn also won its seventh Big East regular-season title under Calhoun, and fifth conference tournament title last year.

## College basketball

**No. 12 Kansas 75,  
No. 21 Missouri 70**

LAWRENCE, Kan. — Kirk Hinrich scored 24 points and Michael Lee made three key free throws in the final seconds, lifting No. 12 Kansas past No. 21 Missouri 76-70 Monday night.

Nick Collison had 22 for the Jayhawks (16-5, 6-1 Big 12), who have won 13 of their past 15 and not lost a regular-season conference home game since Feb. 5, 2001, a span of 15 games.

Rickey Paulding's two free throws cut Kansas' lead to 71-69 with 1:07 left in this 246th game in one of the nation's most spirited rivalries.

Then with 50 seconds to go, Missouri center Arthur Johnson picked up his fifth foul and Bryant Nash made the second of two free throws to put the Jayhawks on top 72-69.

Ricky Clemens had 19 points for the Tigers (13-5, 4-3 Big 12), whose losses have all been on the road.

**No. 19 Syracuse 88,  
Georgetown 80**

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Hakim Warrick, silent for most of the game, scored eight points in a 90-second span midway through the second half and No. 19 Syracuse held on to beat Georgetown.

Syracuse (15-3, 6-2 Big East), coming off a scintillating 67-65 victory over then-No. 2 Pitt on Saturday, remained unbeaten in 13 games inside the Carrier Dome. Georgetown (10-8, 2-6) lost for the sixth time in seven games and fell to 0-6 on the road.

Carmelo Anthony and Gerry McNamara each had 22 points to lead Syracuse, Kueth Duany had 15, Warrick 11 and Billy Edelin 10.

Mike Sweetney led the Hoyas with 32 points and 13 rebounds.

Gerald Riley had 15 points, and Victor Samnick and Tony Bethel each scored 12.

From The Associated Press

## Scores/standings

### NBA

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	33	15	.688	—
Boston	26	22	.542	7
Philadelphia	25	23	.521	8
Orlando	24	25	.490	9½
Washington	23	25	.479	10
New York	20	26	.435	12
Miami	17	31	.354	16

##### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Indiana	34	14	.708	—
Detroit	31	15	.674	2
Milwaukee	24	22	.522	9
New Orleans	25	24	.510	9½
Atlanta	19	30	.388	15½
Chicago	17	31	.354	17
Toronto	13	34	.277	20½
Cleveland	9	39	.188	25

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### Midwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	38	9	.809	—
San Antonio	31	16	.660	7
Minnesota	28	20	.583	10½
Utah	28	20	.583	10½
Houston	26	20	.565	11½
Memphis	13	34	.277	25
Denver	11	36	.234	27

##### Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	33	16	.673	—
Portland	30	16	.652	1½
Phoenix	29	21	.580	4½
L.A. Lakers	22	23	.489	9
Seattle	21	25	.457	10½
Golden State	21	26	.447	11
L.A. Clippers	17	30	.362	15

#### Monday's games

Miami 99, Atlanta 79  
New Jersey 109, Seattle 108, OT  
New Orleans 103, Boston 96  
Dallas 92, Utah 90  
Phoenix 115, Chicago 111, OT  
Golden State 101, Memphis 91

### Men's basketball AP Top 25 Fared

#### Monday

1. Florida (18-2) did not play. Next: at No. 6 Kentucky, Tuesday.

2. Arizona (16-2) did not play. Next: at Washington, Thursday.

3. Texas (14-3) did not play. Next: at Colorado, Tuesday.

4. Pittsburgh (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. Providence, Tuesday.

5. Louisville (16-1) did not play. Next: vs. Cincinnati, Wednesday.

6. Kentucky (16-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 1 Florida, Tuesday.

7. Oklahoma (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. Baylor, Saturday.

8. Maryland (14-4) did not play. Next: vs. Virginia, Thursday.

9. Duke (14-3) did not play. Next: vs. North Carolina, Wednesday.

10. Notre Dame (18-3) did not play. Next: at Seton Hall, Wednesday.

11. Oklahoma State (17-2) did not play. Next: vs. Kansas State, Wednesday.

12. Kansas (16-5) beat No. 21 Missouri 76-70. Next: at Kansas State, Saturday.

13. Creighton (19-2) did not play. Next: vs. Northern Iowa, Tuesday.

14. Wake Forest (15-2) did not play. Next: vs. North Carolina State, Thursday.

15. Marquette (15-3) did not play. Next: vs. Saint Louis, Wednesday.

16. Illinois (15-4) did not play. Next: vs. Ohio State, Sunday.

17. Georgia (13-5) did not play. Next: at Tennessee, Saturday.

18. Connecticut (13-4) did not play. Next: at Virginia Tech, Wednesday.

19. Syracuse (15-3) beat Georgetown 88-80. Next: at West Virginia, Saturday.

20. Xavier (15-4) did not play. Next: at George Washington, Tuesday.

21. Missouri (13-5) lost to No. 12 Kansas 76-70. Next: vs. Texas Tech, Sunday.

22. Alabama (13-5) did not play. Next: at Arkansas, Wednesday.

23. Mississippi State (13-5) did not play. Next: vs. Vanderbilt, Wednesday.

24. Purdue (14-4) did not play. Next: vs. Wisconsin, Wednesday.

25. Stanford (16-5) did not play. Next: at Oregon, Thursday.

From The Associated Press

## NBA continued

### Continued from Page 9

In the last two minutes, Mashburn hit a long fade and a turnaround jumper from the top of the key to give New Orleans a 97-88 lead.

Mashburn, who scored 39 points in New Orleans' last game at Washington, shot 12-for-19 against Boston, including four three-pointers.

David Wesley scored 18 points for New Orleans, which snapped a two-game losing streak and beat Boston for the first time in three meetings this season. The Hornets avoided falling below .500 for the first time this season.

Paul Pierce led Boston with 27 points.

### Mavericks 92, Jazz 90

SALT LAKE CITY — Nick Van Exel hit a three-pointer with 13.1 seconds to play as Dallas beat Utah to spoil Karl Malone's 1,400th career game.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 25 points, while Steve Nash had 20 points and six assists for the Mavericks, who squandered a 16-point lead before rallying for their fourth straight victory.

Utah's Matt Harpring, who missed Saturday's game with sore ribs, returned to the lineup and scored 20 points — but he missed a baseline jumper that would have forced overtime.

Malone finished with 18 points for the Jazz, who outrebounded the Mavericks 46-31. He became the fourth NBA player to reach the 1,400-game milestone, joining teammate John Stockton (1,470), Kareem Abdul-Jabar (1,560) and Robert Parish (1,611).

Andrei Kirilenko gave Utah a 90-89 lead on a layup with 29.9 seconds left.

### Suns 115, Bulls 111 (OT)

PHOENIX — All-Star teammates Stephen Marbury and Shawn Marion scored 36 points each as Phoenix escaped with a victory over Chicago.

Marbury, who also had nine assists, scored six in overtime, including consecutive drives to the basket that put Phoenix ahead 111-108 with 1:30 to play. His two free throws with 1.8 seconds remaining sealed the victory.

Marion sank a three-pointer with 19.4 seconds left in regulation to help send the game to overtime after Phoenix trailed most of the night.

Jalen Rose scored 28 points for Chicago, but his streak of consecutive free throws made ended at 33. Donyell Marshall had 23 points and 18 rebounds as the Bulls dropped to 2-24 on the road.

### Warriors 101, Grizzlies 91

OAKLAND, Calif. — Troy Murphy had 21 points and 13 rebounds, and Gilbert Arenas added 21 points and nine assists as Golden State snapped a three-game losing streak with a victory over Memphis.

The Warriors improved to 21-26 — matching their win total from last season with one game remaining before this weekend's All-Star break.

The Grizzlies shot 39 percent in dropping their sixth consecutive game and ninth in 10. Pau Gasol led Memphis with 20 points and nine rebounds, while Shane Battier had 16 points and 11 rebounds.

From The Associated Press